

Contributions

ACROSTIC—Eugenia Florenci St. John

ELD. J. W. BEER

Everything that is lawful and right
Unto its subject brings strength and delight;
Giving what God, in his infinite love,
Ever is pleased to bestow from above.
Nothing like *temperance*, rightly applied,
Issues in happiness lasting and wide;
And all the *temperate* fully abstain
From all the evil, the hurtful, the vain.
Faith is essential to lead us to do;
Love is as needful to carry us thru;
On our firm hope very much doth depend;
Righteousness all of our steps should attend.
Ever with Jesus as master and guide
Naught can e'er hinder for right to decide.
Christ is our Savior, our Teacher, our Lord;
In his pure gospel do all things accord.
We have our longings for saving the world;
Salvation's banner we now hold unfurled.
Thanks to our Father in heaven we give;
And to his glory and praise we shall live.
Jesus has gone to prepare us a home;
Over death's Jordan we never shall roam;
Heavenly songs we forever shall sing.
Now, fare-thee-well till we meet our Great King.
Lathrop, California.

SABBATH OBSERVANCE

WINNIE M. PEARSON

The Sunday is the core of our civilization, dedicated to thought and reverence. There can be no doubt that among immoral people Sunday witnesses more sin than any other day of the week. The grievous thing about it is that our Heavenly Father designed Sunday to have exactly the opposite effect. He designed it to be a day not only of rest for the weary, but a day of rational good cheer, a day of high opportunity, a day for the counteracting of the depressing effects of care and toil, and for the fortifying of all that is good and true. When rightly used it becomes the most beneficial educating influence we have. No other earthly boon conferred on society can be compared with it. Dr. John Lord has truly said, "To the Sabbath and to public preaching, Christendom owes more than to all other sources of moral elevation combined." The religious observance of the Lord's day was, among primitive Christians, a badge of the Christian profession. Hence, "All who love the Lord love the Lord's day as the chief of all days." Now when these supreme gifts are perverted of course there will come a reaction. Lose the spirit of self-denial, the consciousness of having a high calling and a great mission, and you not only will be, but you are already cut loose from Christ. This Sabbath observance for Christians is not simply a question of following a given rule, or keeping one day in seven in a given way, but it is the question of taking up our cross and following Christ. Who denies that spiritual declension in the church begins in a vast majority of cases by some abuse of the Sabbath? Every Christian is standing to-day in the presence of a fearfully low public sentiment on this subject. Resistance to it must and does begin when Christian life begins, and must and does continue as long as Christian life continues.

For example it is certain as the sunlight, that the printing and selling of a low toned secular newspaper on the Sabbath, not as a necessity, but simply as a business enterprise for the money there is in it, and the patronizing of such a paper by Christians, is indirectly a blow at everything which Christianity proposes to promote among men. There is scarcely a church covenant in the land that is not indirectly violated whenever Christians patronize the Sunday newspapers. It prepares the way for every other business enterprise to claim Christian patronage on the Sabbath. It is high time that Christians were done permitting Sunday newspaper men to bulldoze them into silence and acquiescence. To be sure it is said on all sides, "If you fight this thing you will split the church." This is not true. The only rupture will be between the church and the world. Christ came to lay the axe at the root of the tree, not the branches. And ever since the men who really follow him have had to turn the world upside down, for it is naturally wrong side up. To be sure, we are told that the Sunday newspaper and the Sundapostal work and trains and the Sunday saloon "have come to stay." Of course they have if they can. If the Christian does nothing but fold his arms and let everything have its course. But to the disciple of Christ nothing has certainly come to stay but the kingdom of God. "Come to stay" is begging the question.

Suppose a burglar comes into your home, takes your money, (if you have any,) eats your food, insults your family, and after kindling a comfortable fire, sits down and announces, "I've come to stay." If you are a man, much more if you are a Christian you will at once proceed to roll up your sleeves and say, "We will proceed to settle that question." Would you not? And again, if we believe in a Christian civilization for our country, the Sabbath must be kept as a religious institution. You will find that you cannot have a Christian civilization with Christ and his precepts left out. You cannot have Christ in our civilization without the Christian church, and you cannot maintain the Christian church without the Christian Sunday. Few people will doubt that high morality and pure patriotism are inseparable. Morality and Sabbath keeping also go hand in hand. You cannot kill Christianity as long as the Sabbath is maintained as a sacred day. Hence, self sacrifice cannot survive without religion and religion our country are bound up forever with the observance of the Christian Sabbath. These considerations of the relations of national morality to the observance of the Sabbath may be laughed at by the saloon keeper and the Sunday publisher, who propose to make money at the expense of public morals, but surely no Christian can afford to laugh. An incident is related of a man who had committed murder, was tried, found guilty, and condemned to be hung. A few days before his execution, upon the walls of his prison he drew the figure of a man hanging on a

gallows with five steps leading up to it. On the first step he wrote, "Disobedience to parents." Solomon says, "The eye that mocketh at his father and despiseth to obey his mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out and the young eagles shall eat it." That is, he shall perish by a violent death, he shall come to a miserable wretched end. On the second step he wrote, "Sabbath breaking." God commands us to, "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy." If an investigation is made of the prisons and jails, you will find nine tenths of its inmates have begun their downward course by the breaking of the Sabbath. On the third step he wrote, "Gambling and drunkenness." On the fourth he wrote, "Murder," and on the fifth step he wrote, "The fatal platform." It is impossible for us to form a correct idea of the thoughts that must rush thru the mind of a man under such circumstances, the disgrace attached to his name, the pains and agony of such a death, the want of sympathy in the community around him, the fearful forebodings of his guilty soul before the bar of a holy God. A few years ago, an African prince, while on a visit to England, asked Queen Victoria the secret of England's greatness. The queen did not send him to the Tower of London to look upon the iron-guarded jewels of the realm, but, presenting him a Bible said, "Here is the secret of England's greatness." So, when the nations ask for the secret of our prosperity let us point to the open Bible. Let us point to our thousands of church spires, let us point to our Christian Sabbath still maintained in its primitive purity as the most marked and cherished monuments of our national life. The true lovers of their country will do it with grateful pride. The salt that preserves this nation and has given it progress and glory, the light that has shone to show it a pathway to elevation is from the Bible. It is a rock of diamonds, our nation's wealth. It is a chain of pearls, our nation's ornament. It is our sun-dial by which to discern the times. It is our balance by which to weigh our actions.

"Sundays observe, think when the bells do chime
'Tis angels' music, therefore come not late.
God there deals blessings.
Let vain or busy thoughts there have no part,
Bring not thy plough, thy plot, thy pleasure thither.
Christ purged his temple, so must thou thy heart."

THE GREAT COMMISSION

J. B. WAMPLER

This commission of Christ delivered to the apostles whom he called and ordained to be his witnesses, as a whole recorded by the three evangelists, Matthew, Mark and Luke, is truly a *great commission*. In it is clearly set forth the *triune*, or three-one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the holy apostles, all nations or the entire human race. It embraces the doctrine of faith, repentance, or reformation of life, the law of Christian baptism in mode and form, remission of sin, or absolution from all past sins, Christian discipleship, the salvation of believers conditioned upon the observance of